problem of terrorism. India has also been actively in touch with other countries through bilateral channels.

Indo-US Joint Working Group

54. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outcome of the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group (JWG) on counter terrorism held in Washington on 7th and 8th February, 2000.

(b) whether India furnished to United States the details of Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Kashmir and other parts of the country, particularly, the role of Pakistan and the Taliban in the recent hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight No. IC-814; and

(c) whether any joint-action plan formulated by JWG against the terrorist training camps in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan directing subversive activities against both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000. The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. The two sides unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism, that may be invoked to justify them. The Indian Government agreed to the US offer of Anti-terrorism Assistance programs, the specifics to be determined in future visits. The group also decided to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts in April to discuss the Indian-proposed UN Terrorism Convention.

(b) The Indian side shared with the US side our information and assessment relating to the nature and origin of cross-border terrorism in India and to the identity of individuals and agencies involved in the hijacking of IC-814. The two sides agreed to intensify their joint cooperation to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of Indian

Airlines Flight IC-814 are brought to justice, as part of their joint efforts to combat international terrorism.

(c) The two countries agreed on a range of measures to enhance cooperation to combat international terrorism, and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and co-ordinate approaches and action.

Proposal to cancel Samjhauta Express

55. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cancel Samjhauta Express between India and Pakistan following reports that the train is being used for smuggling purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, sir. There is no proposal to cancel the Samjhauta Express between India and Pakistan.

Cases of smuggling of arms, ammunition, fake Indian currency, narcotics, etc., from Pakistan, using the Samjhauta Express, have come to the notice of Government. Government will exercise due vigilance to ensure that such endeavors do not succeed.

Nuclear threat from Pakistan

56. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan was again trying to put pressure on India, by internationalising the Kashmir issue and even threatened recently that it would not hesitate to press the nuclear button to settle it;